

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 07296 201218 Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 SNM-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO CUSTOMS WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2797

BNDD HQS WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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ATTN HAROLD F. SMITH, INV AND BRIAN COLE, OFFICE INTERNAL
OPERATIONS; FOR SECSTATE NEA/ TA; PARIS FOR CUSTOMS AND AID
FROM CUSTOMS ATTACHE WILLIAM KNIERIM

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR OTRA

SUBJ: TRAINING COURSE

REF: STATE 204838

1. STATE 204838 OF NOVEMBER 10, 1972 PROPOSED TRAINING TWELVE
(12) LEBANESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS IN THE UNITED STATES.
 2. I RECOMMEND THAT FOUR (4) SENIOR CUSTOMS OFFICERS BE GIVEN
COURSE 1, SENIOR CUSTOMS OBSERVATION TRAINING, DURING THE SUMMER
OR EARLY FALL OF 1973.
 3. YOU ARE ADVISED THAT I HAVE TALKED WITH OFFICIALS AT THE
CUSTOMS DIRECTORATE AND THEY RECOMMEND (1) GEORGE KADIFA, THE
HIGHEST
RANKING LEBANESE CUSTOMS (NO
POLITICAL) OFFICIAL IN LEBANON. HE IS
ON THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF CUSTOMS, SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH,
FRENCH,
ARABIC AND ALSO GERMAN. HE HAS WRITTEN TWO VOLUMES ON LEBANESE
CUSTOMS LAWS AND REGULATIONS. HE HAS WORKED IN ALL CUSTOMS
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 07296 201218 Z

POSITIONS THROUGHOUT LEBANON AND WHEN HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE PORT OF BEIRUT HE WORKED CLOSELY WITH UNITED STATES NARCOTIC AGENTS IN BEIRUT.

4. BECAUSE LEBANON IS HALF CHRISTIAN AND HALF MOSLEM, THE OTHER PERSON TO BE SENT, IF ONLY TWO ARE TO BE SENT, HAS TO BE A MOSLEM.

5. THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF CUSTOMS HAS RECOMMENDED THAT JABER SACCAR, CIVILIAN CHIEF OF THE MANIFEST SECTION AT THE CUSTOMS DOCK OFFICE ACCOMPANY MR. KADIFA.

6. I AGREE WITH THIS AND REGRET ONLY THAT MR. SUCCAR SPEAKS FRENCH AND ARABIC BUT IS NOT FLUENT IN ENGLISH.

7. IF WE COULD SHOW MR. SUCCAR THAT STUDYING MANIFESTS OFTEN GIVES EXCELLENT CLUES TO NARCOTIC SMUGGLING PATTERNS, WE COULD HELP OUR NARCOTICS EFFORT.

8. I AM RECOMMENDING A THIRD CUSTOMS EXECUTIVE GO WITH THE ABOVE TWO PERSONS. THIS WILL BE MR. EDWARD SAMINE. HE IS THE CHIEF OF THE CARGO SECTION AT THE BEIRUT AIRPORT. HE WAS IN THE INVESTIGATION SECTION OF LEBANESE CUSTOMS FOR OVER FIFTEEN YEARS. HE HAD ATTENDED NARCOTICS SEMINARS IN GENEVA, SPEAKS ENGLISH, FRENCH AND ARABIC FLUENTLY. MR. PAUL LAWRENCE WHO MADE THE NARCOTIC SURVEY OF LEBANON KNOWS MR. SAMINE.

9. I WOULD LIKE TO HOLD THE FOURTH EXECUTIVE LEVEL POSITION OPEN FOR MR9 ,- 48 -)#-?. HE IS THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS AND ALTHOUGH THIS IS A POLITICAL APPOINTMENT,;3#3 #- #3)\$ 5#3 09 8589, 8,;3 1965.

10. HE HAS A LAW DEGREE, HAS BEEN A JUDGE, THE GOVERNOR OF THE BEKAA REGION AND AT 52 IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF LEBANON.

11. IF WE COULD SOMEHOW TURN HIM ONTO THE EFFORT TO INTERDICT NARCOTICS, I'M SURE THAT CUSTOMS WOULD MAKE LARGE NUMBERS OF NARCOTIC SEIZURES.

12. THIS LEAVES EIGHT POSITIONS FOR UNITED STATES TRAINING.

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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 07296 201218 Z

13. THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF CUSTOMS, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND I HAVE AGREED ON FOUR MEN - IF POSSIBLE I WOULD LIKE TO SEND FIVE - WHO WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GO TO THE UNITED STATES IN EARLY SUMMER

FOR COURSE II - CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT (MID- MANAGEMENT LEVEL). I UNDERSTAND FROM AID AIRGRAM A-9631 OF SEPTEMBER 25, 1972 THAT THIS COURSE WILL LAST FIVE (5) WEEKS, THREE (3) WEEKS IN THE CLASSROOM AND TWO (2) WEEKS IN THE FIELD.

14. THESE MEN ARE: CAPTAIN JEAN CORDAHI, CHIEF OF THE PORT, MR. RAFIC BAZ WILL BE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF INVESTIGATIONS WHEN MR. ALEXANDER SAIKLI RETIRES IN JULY, MR. OUSAMMA HAMSE WHO WORKS IN THE CARGO SECTION AT THE BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND MR. NAJIB ASSAD, AN INVESTIGATOR FOR MR. SAIKLI.

15. THESE MEN ALL SPEAK ARABIC, FRENCH AND ENGLISH. THE FIRST TWO ARE CHRISTIANS, THE LAST TWO ARE MOSLEMS. EXCEPT FOR CAPTAIN CORDAHI WHO IS 53 YEARS OLD, THE OTHERS ARE BETWEEN 35 AND 40.

16. THE FIFTH MAN I WOULD LIKE TO SEND IS JOHN BIFANE, THE ASSIST-
TANT IN CHARGE OF THE BEIRUT AIRPORT PASSENGER TERMINAL.

17. IF UNITED STATES CUSTOMS WANTED EIGHT MID- MANAGEMENT LEVEL PERSONS, WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FURNISH THEM.

18. I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE REMAINING THREE POSITIONS BE HELD FOR A CUSTOMS SERGEANT AND TWO GUARDS. ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF EDUCATION OF THESE MEN IS USUALLY QUITE LOW, THEY ARE THE ONES WHO DO ALL THE SEARCHING AND HAVE MOST CONTACT WITH THE SMUGGLERS. ALL THE SEIZURES MADE BY CUSTOMS ARE MADE BY GUARDS. MOST OF THE CUSTOMS PERSONAL WHO ARE ARRESTED FOR SMUGGLING ARE GUARDS.

19. IF WE COULD LET THEM KNOW THAT THERE IS A COURSE SCHEDULED OR PLANNED FOR GUARD AND SERGEANT LEVEL PERSONNEL, I WOULD LET THEM KNOW THAT THE GUARD AND SERGEANTS WHO MAKE HEROIN SEIZURES WOULD BE FIRST CHOICES FOR THE CLASS.

20. THINGS I NEED TO KNOW:

(1) WILL THERE BE A COURSE I, SENIOR CUSTOMS OBSERVATION TRAINING, GIVEN THIS SUMMER?

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PAGE 04 BEIRUT 07296 201218 Z

(2) IF SO, WHEN?

(3) WHAT WILL BE THE LENGTH, THE ITINERARY?

(4) HOW MANY SENIOR LEBANESE CUSTOMS OFFICIALS DO YOU WANT? MUST THEY SPEAK ENGLISH FLUENTLY? I NEED TO KNOW THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AS CLEARANCES FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LEBANON MUST BE APPLIED FOR AND RECEIVED.

(5) WHO WILL PAY FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL? THE LEBANESE CUSTOMS

HAS NO MONEY IN IT' S BUDGET FOR THIS.

(6) WHAT WILL THE PER DIEM RATE BE?

(7) I NEED THE SAME QUESTIONS ANSWERED IN REGARD TO THE COURSE II
MIDDLE MANAGEMENT. THESE MEN WILL ALL BE FLUENT IN ENGLISH.
WILL THE CLASSROOM VERSION OF THIS BE HELD IN LAREDO OR IN
NEW YORK?

(8) WILL ANY OF THIS TRAINING BE CHANGED BY THE REORGANIZATION
TO TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO JULY 1, 1973?
HOUGHTON

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